

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 00975 291920Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6848

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 0975

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: AO, IV, PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: ANGOLA-IVORY COAST HESITATING TO PARTICIPATE IN
JOINT APPEAL FOR U.S. SUPPORT?

REFERENCE (A) ABIDJAN 928, (B) DAKAR 547,

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REFTEL A AND MY CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH ZAIRE AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST, I WAS ABLE TO REACH FOREIGN MINISTER USHER BY TELEPHONE AFTERNOON JANUARY 29. I SAID I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT HE MIGHT BE GOING TO THE U.S. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO COORDINATE THIS WITH ME BUT LEFT SOME UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER IN FACT HE IS GOING. MY APPOINTMENT WITH HIM IS SET FOR 0930 ON FEBRUARY 3 AND, ALTHOUGH I OFFERED TO MEET WITH HIM SOONER, IF HE WISHED, HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY.

2. WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT USHER WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ON A STATE VISIT TO CAMEROON, DEPARTING HERE ON FEBRUARY 8. THUS THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR USHER TO GO TO WASHINGTON AND RETURN WOULD BE BRIEF INDEED.

3. COMMENT: IT MAY BE THAT SENGHOR'S DECISION TO BE REPRESENTED IN ANY WASHINGTON TALKS BY HIS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, A DECISION TAKEN AFTER THE NGUZA VISIT HERE(REFTEL B), HAS INFLUENCED THE IVORY COAST POSITION. IT MAY ALSO BE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE AGAINST USE OF U.S. MILITARY BUDGET IN ANGOLA HAS GIVEN IVORIANS FURTHER PAUSE AS TO UTILITY

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 00975 291920Z

OF VISIT.

4. IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN USHER'S SCHEDULE, WE SHALL OF
COURSE NOTIFY DEPARTMENT.
SMITH

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NNN

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